

Good evening,

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee, I am Dr. Lucy Gilson, a Management Professor, the Academic Director of the Geno Auriemma UConn Leadership Conference, and the faculty advisor to the UConn Women's MBA Association. I have worked at the UConn School of Business since 2000. I have a daughter who is a junior in high school and considering the University of Connecticut for her college education - so I speak to you as both a UConn faculty member, and prospective parent.

Thank you for listening to me, and for all the support you have given to the University of Connecticut.

As a business school faculty, I understand the challenges you face in reducing the budget deficit and am grateful for all your work in addressing this critical issue.

As you are aware, the recommended budget released last week creates a gap of approximately \$40 million between the state funding and what is needed to operate the university next year. As the University planned for the future, there was a reasonable expectation that centrally negotiated union raises would be funded and that the Next Gen plan would be also. These are not in this budget and lead to the intense pressure on UConn.

Earlier today I went to a presentation given by a colleague of mine entitled "Long Term Thinking in a Short Term World" his research stresses the importance of balancing long and short term goals. And his presentation was to a number of Hartford's business leaders and UConn alumni - We need faculty who do cutting edge research across disciplines. However, to recruit and retain them we must be competitive. Good faculty have many opportunities, we want them to come to UConn and to continue to grow the role that University plays in our community and state.

A reduction to the appropriation in that amount proposed would without question have a devastating impact on the University.

These deep cuts would reverse the progress made at UConn and deeply hurt so many of the programs we have started to build. For example, last fall General Martin Dempsey (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) was the keynote speaker at the Geno Auriemma UConn Leadership Conference. Our ability to bring people

like General Dempsey to the state to talk to our students, alumni, and business partners will be severely curtailed with deep budget cuts.

One of the reasons that I accepted a faculty position at UConn and have stayed is the role we play in creating tomorrow's business leaders today. Over my almost 15 years here, I have personally worked with undergraduate, MBA, and PhD students who have gone on to do some pretty amazing things. Some have started businesses that help combat veterans find new jobs, others work for large companies on international trade regulations, and my most current PhD student is teaching leadership at the War College. In addition, I have taught several managerial certificate programs to our state employees (state police, public health, and others) the role of the business school in helping our state run effectively should be of critical importance to all of us. Our reputation and future depends on us being able to attract high quality students. Trust me, the good ones have many options, are in demand, and highly sought after – *we want them at UConn and in the state of CT.*

Investing in UConn requires both a short and long term lens. We need to be great today so that we are positioned going forward to lead in the next generation. I teach *Leadership* and *Managing Change* - So I am confident when I say, the effect of a budget cut of this magnitude on our University will be DEVASTATING—it will have negative repercussion on our academic programs and the role UConn is able to play in the state's future.

I mentioned in my opening, that I am a parent of a soon to be college student. I want her to consider UConn not because it is close to home, less expensive, or because I work there – I want her to 'pick' UConn because it is the best place to further her education, build her dreams, grow as a contributing member of society,- Please continue to help up make UConn the University my daughter *WANTS* to attend.

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME—**